The Menaion • Volume One

The Month of September

Translated from the Greek by the

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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SEPTEMBER

The Complete Menaion

Twelve Volumes • In English

Providing the Services for the Feasts of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Most Holy Theotokos, and of the Saints for Every Day of the Year, Set to the Meter of the Original Byzantine Melodies

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OCTOBER 26

The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer. The Commemoration of the Great Earthquake

VESPERS

After the Proemial Psalm, we chant Blessed is the man. *For* Lord, I have cried, *we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera:*

Plagal of Fourth Tone. O strange wonder

O STRANGE wonder, great and marvellous! * Exceeding joy hath shone forth * both in Heaven and on the earth * on this day's memorial * of the Martyr Demetrius. * With fitting praise he is crowned by Angel choirs, * and from us men he receiveth songs and hymns. * How valiantly he strove! * And how well he fought! Through him the crafty foe * fell in utter ruin and Christ is victorious.

The text of the hymns is set in large enough type to be easily readable by chanters at a chanting stand. After many years of trial by the chanters in our Monastery, we believe that everyone will find our Menaion easy to use in church without strain on the eyes even through the longest services.

The Prosomia (hymns that follow a certain melody) are set to the meter of the Greek originals.

Since the whole Canon of Matins is no longer chanted as part of the daily service in general use, and since the Greek Menaia indicate over three hundred Heirmoi, the music for many of which we do not even have, we have not metered the Canons. The exceptions to this are some of the Odes of the Canons of some Great Feasts (these are listed in the Introduction in the September volume), and the Canons of most of the services to Saints not in the original Greek Menaia (see page 6 below).

Thou didst check the force of ignorance with thy divine words, setting forth the knowledge of piety for all that had slipped to the depths of vanity, O God-inspired and sacred minister Capito.

Theotokion

Wishing to refashion all men, O Maiden, the Word of God, Who is of one throne with the Father and the Spirit, Who with His hand fashioned Eve, was fashioned in thy womb, receiving a beginning.

ODE EIGHT
Heirmos

When Daniel stretched out his hands in the den, he shut the gaping mouths of the lions. And the Children, those lovers of piety who were girt about with virtue, quenched the might of fire as they cried: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

Troparia

When ye were put to death by the pains of the flesh, ye became the cause of immortal life for all that served dead gods, O righteous Fathers; and they who were saved with you ever cry out: O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.

With one voice, O ye faithful, let us sing of Eugene and Agathodorus, Ephraim, Elpidius, and Aetherius, Basileus, and Capito, as destroyers of the enemy and hierarchs of Christ, unto Whom we cry: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord.

After gladdening peoples with thy teachings, O wise Father, thou hast now passed over to the unwaning illumination and gladness everlasting, receiving the rewards for thy labours and crying: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord.

Since ye are now clusters of the Vine of Life, O most blessed of men, ye make the wine of healings to gush forth continually, and ye make glad the hearts of all who faithfully acclaim you and cry: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord.

Theotokion

The Transcendent in Essence was seen as a man born of thee, O immaculate Virgin, twofold in nature and energy and will, having willed to be manifest unto those whose likeness He assumed; unto Him we cry: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord.

ODE NINE
Heirmos

When Christ, the chief corner-stone not cut by the hand of man, was cut from thee, the unhewn mountain, O Virgin, He joined together the separated natures. Wherefore we magnify thee with rejoicing, O Theotokos.

Troparia

As we celebrate the sacred memorial of the holy Hieromartyrs, come, with a great voice let us all honour them with sacred hymns; for they intercede with the All-merciful God in our behalf.

Ye appeared as precious stones dragged upon the earth b… the strength… delusion. W…

Today … morial… vine pillars … and divinely…

Already … and A… godly-mind… have been n…

Theotokion

While holding in her arms Christ, Who holdeth all things in His hand, the Maiden graced of God cried out in astonishment, saying: How is it that I know Thee to be both my Son and my Maker, O Incomprehensible One?

And the remainder of Matins, and the Dismissal.

Consistent use of red initial capitals, border ornaments, and rubrics makes it easy to navigate from one day's service to the next and within the main parts of the same service.

MARCH 8

Our Righteous Father Theophylact the Confessor, Bishop of Nicomedia

VESPERS

For Lord, I have cried, *we chant the following Stichera:*

First Tone. O all-lauded Martyrs

Though kept in a prison under guard, * thou wast guarded from all harm by God, O Father Theophylact; and thou wast seen to be * an unshaken … firm, * un… that heretics … our God * … our souls.

…scend * unto …s wast thou …, O Father, * …very and pa… …eophylact; * …hat He grant …

…s far as is possible for man, * thou now seest God while seen of Him, enjoying a union with Him closer and more great; * made God by adoption, * thou with infinite delight * hast found that which alone is desirable and blessed, as thou now * dwellest with the Angels in the heights, * O wise Hierarch, * blest Father Theophylact.

Glory; both now. *Theotokion*

Do thou, O all-hymned one, heal my soul,* which is terribly diseased with wicked passions; for thou, O holy Virgin, hast conceived * Christ our God, the Healer * and the Saviour of all men, * Who healeth every sickness and malady, but smote with mortal wounds * all the devil's wickedness and spite * and delivered * us from bitter death itself.

Or, Theotokion of the Cross

Beholding Christ hanging on the Tree,* the pure Virgin cried aloud: A sword is passed through my heart, and it doth rend it, O my Son, * as it was foretold me * long ago by Symeon. * But rise again, O Master, and glorify together with Thyself * Thine own Mother and Thy handmaiden, * O Immortal, * I beseech Thee earnestly.

And the remainder of Vespers, and the Dismissal.

DISMISSAL HYMN
Plagal of Second Tone

Thou didst live a life hidden in God, O all-famed Theophylact, but Christ revealed thee unto all as a shining light set upon the spiritual lampstand, and He placed in thy hands the tablets of the Spirit's doctrines; whereby do thou enlighten us.

MATINS

The Reading from the Psalter and the Canons as appointed, with the following of the Saint. Before the Troparia, we say, O Hierarch of Christ, intercede in our behalf.

A Composition of Theophanes
Plagal of Fourth Tone
ODE ONE
Heirmos

Let us sing to the Lord Who led His people through the Red Sea; for He alone is gloriously glorified.

Troparia

As thou standest at the throne of the Master, O God-bearing Father Theophylact, preserve them that keep thy memory with faith.

The grace of the Spirit worthily anointed thee, O all-blessed one, for the sake of the truth and because of the goodness of thy ways.

That thou mightest attain unto things heavenly, O blessed Theophylact, thou didst trample underfoot all things earthly and didst follow after Christ.

Theotokion

He that was well pleased to be born of thy womb, O pure Bride of God, is entirely desire, sweetness, and unwaning light.

ODE THREE
Heirmos

Lord, Thou art the steadfastness of them that flee unto Thee in faith; Thou art the light of all those in darkness, and my spirit doth sing Thy praise.

Comprehensive Introduction

The September volume includes an in-depth introduction to the Menaion which discusses:

- *The rubrics, and the use of the Menaion with the other liturgical books—the Octoëchos, Triodion, and Pentecostarion.*
- *The origin of the Menaion: when it was composed, and which hymnographers contributed to it.*
- *The Canon of Matins, its origin and development (what happened to the Second Ode?), how to say the refrains before the Troparia of each Ode, and so forth.*
- *The commemorations of the Saints in the Synaxarion, and the spiritual significance and profit of commemorating the Saints each day.*
- *The meter and metrical conventions used in our translation.*
- *Many resources for further study of the Lives of the Saints.*
- *And more.*

Complete Index of Feasts and Saints

At the end of the August volume we have provided an index, of over 6,000 entries, listing all the Feasts and Saints celebrated with services or commemorated in the Synaxarion of the Menaion.

Since printing the Great Horologion in 1997, we have included over 200 more Saints or groups of Saints from the Orthodox West and North Africa.

The index also includes variant forms of names, to aid in finding a Patron Saint in Baptism, for any wishing to know if there is Saint for those named Amanda, Audrey, Chad, Clair, Clarence, Delphine, Emily, Flora, Foster, Frederick, Gerald, Gertrude, Gomez, Gwen, Harvey, Herbert, Jeffrey, Lambert, Louis, Mildred, Owen, Peg, Ralph, Regina, Roderick, William, and many others.

Services to Saints Not in the Original Greek Menaion

Besides a complete translation of all the services in the original Greek printed Menaion, this edition also provides services to Saints not in the original Greek. For the Saints listed below, hymns or a full service are found at the back of each volume. Names in italics are those for which hymns rather than a complete service are given.

September

7 *St Macarius of Optina*
21 *The holy Prophet Jonas*

October

1 Protection of our Most Holy Lady
9 *Patriarch Abraham*
10 Synaxis of the Optina Elders
12 St Symeon the New Theologian
17 *St Susanna, Queen of Georgia*
19 St John of Kronstadt
20 St Gerasimus of Cephalonia

November

9 St Nectarius of Pentapolis
12 St Martin of Tours
14 St Gregory Palamas
17 *St Hilda of Whitby*

December

1 St Philaret the Almsgiver
12 St Herman of Alaska
17 St Dionysius of Zakynthos

January

2 St Seraphim of Sarov
14 St Sabbas of Serbia
19 St Mark of Ephesus
22–28 All the New Martyrs of Russia
24 St Neophytus of Cyprus
24 St Xenia of St Petersburg
25 *St Anatolius of Optina*
28 St Isaac the Syrian [combined with the service for St Ephraim]

February

1 *SS Perpetua and Felicity of Carthage*
6 St Photius the Great / *SS Barsanuphius & John*
13 St Symeon the Myrrh-streamer of Serbia
19 St Philothei of Athens
26 St Photine the Samaritan Woman

March

17 St Patrick the Enlightener of Ireland
20 St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne
24 *St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow*

April

10 St Gregory V, Patriarch of Constantinople
17 St Macarius of Corinth

May

1 The Holy Three New Righteous Martyrs of Mount Athos, Euthymius, Ignatius, and Acacius
8 Our Lady's Cassiopeia Icon
9 *St Joseph of Optina*
11 SS Cyril & Methodius
27 St John the Russian

June

10 The Holy Martyrs of China
11 Our Lady's Axion Estin Icon
12 St Peter of Athos [combined with the service for St Onuphrius]
17 St Botolph of Ikanhoe
23 *St Maximus of Serpukhov*

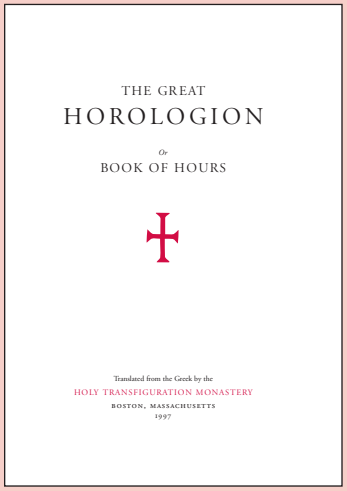
July

4 The Royal Martyrs of Russia
5 SS Elizabeth and Barbara
15 *St Matrona of Chios*
19 St Seraphim of Sarov
20 *The New Martyrs Lydia, Cyril, and Alexis*
22 *St Marcella of Chios*
28 St Irene of Chrysovalantou
31 SS Joseph of Arimathea and Germanus of Auxerre in Gaul

August

5 *St Oswald, King of Northumbria, and St John the Romanian*
24 St Cosmas of Aetolia
27 St Phanurius the Newly Revealed

Companion to the Menaion: The Great Horologion



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Including:

The Daily Cycle of Services

Over 500 concise accounts of Feasts and Saints' Lives, with their Troparia

The Katavasiae, the Eclogarion for Vigils, and much more.

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While the Menaion provides the hymns for the immovable feasts of the Church year, the Great Horologion, printed by the Monastery in 1997, provides the order of the services themselves and the invariable texts which form their structure (the psalms, fixed hymns and prayers that are part of the daily cycle, and so forth). In the Introduction to the Menaion we refer the reader to the Great Horologion for a fuller explanation of how to execute certain parts of Vespers and Matins, for which it would have been out of place to provide full explanations in the rubrics in the Menaion.

But the Great Horologion provides more than this. Our edition of the Menaion omits the short lives of Saints included in the Synaxarion of the Greek Menaion for three reasons: 1) They are no longer read as part of the daily service in general practice; 2) full lives of Saints and even whole translations of the Synaxaria are increasingly available in English translation; 3) our Synaxarion also includes hundreds of Saints from the Slavic and Western calendars, and to provide no account for them also would have seemed unbalanced.

The Menologion section of the Horologion (pages 237–595) was done with this in mind, and was intended at least partially to fill the place of the Synaxaria: it has an account for all the Feasts and Saints for which there is a full service in the Menaion. It also provides Dismissal Hymns and Kontakia for a number of Saints for whom no service is provided in the Menaion.

FEBRUARY 23

✢ The holy Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna.
✢ Our righteous Fathers John, Moses, Antiochus, and Antoninus, near Rama in Syria.
✢ Saint Gorgonia, sister of Saint Gregory the Theologian.
✢ The holy Martyr Clement.
✢ The holy Martyr Thea.
✢ Our righteous Fathers Zebinas, Polychronius, Moses, and Damian, near Cyrrhus in Syria.
✢ Our righteous Father Damian of Esphigmenou on Mount Athos.
✢ The holy Virgin Martyr Martha of Astorga in Spain.
✢ Our righteous Father Alexander, Founder of the Monastery of the Unsleeping.
✢ Our righteous Mother Ercongata of Kent, Nun of Faremoutiers in Gaul.
✢ Our righteous Father Boisil, Abbot of Melrose, instructor of Saint Cuthbert of Lindisfarne.
✢ Our righteous Mother Milburga, Abbess of Wenlock in Shropshire.
✢ Our righteous Father Moses of Belozersk.
✢ Our righteous Father Polycarp of Bryansk.

Daily Commemoration Cards

An invaluable aid to the performance of the daily services, these cards are so convenient you'll wonder how you ever managed without them. Whether for use by the clergy in commemorating the Saints of the day in the Dismissals, or by any Orthodox Christian wishing to call upon the Saints in one's daily prayers, they fill a need unmatched by any other listing of the Saints.

Two hundred 4" x 6" cards, printed on both sides, two-color, on heavy, durable, acid-free stock, comprising:

- *All 365 [366 in a leap year] days of the year*
- *The periods of all the Great Feasts, providing the Dismissals and Entrance Hymns, including the Triodion and Pentecostarion*

Please Note: These cards correspond to the commemorations in the Synaxarion of our Menaion, which follows modern Greek usage, and differs in some minor points from Slavic usage.

Catalog Item B-040 • Price: $40.00 (plus S & H)